

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USEEC

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: ECIN, ECE, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS REPORT INDICATES INTENTION TO
PURSUE ALL THREE HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS

1. ACCORDING TO SOVIET PRESS ACCOUNT OF 33RD ECE SESSION,
SOVIET PROPOSALS ON HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS HELD CENTRAL PLACE
IN WORK OF SESSION. TASS ARTICLE APPEARING IN APRIL 24
PRAVDA SPEAKS OF "PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY THE SOVIET UNION
FOR CARRYING OUT GENERAL EUROPEAN CONGRESSES OR INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS ON QUESTIONS OF COOPERATION IN THE
AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEVELOPMENT OF TRANS-
PORT AND ENERGY." ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT SOVIET PROPOSALS
RECEIVED WIDE SUPPORT FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS AS CORRESPOND-
ING TO LETTER AND SPIRIT OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

2. ARTICLE BLAMES EC-9 AND "SEVERAL OTHER WESTERN COUNT-
RIES" FOR "UNCONSTRUCTIVE" POSITION OF PROCRASTINATING AND
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THUS NOT ALLOWING A POSITIVE DECISION TO BE TAKEN ON ALL
THREE SOVIET PROPOSALS. STEP FORWARD WAS TAKEN ONLY WITH
REGARD TO CALLING OF HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT; IN
SESSION'S FINAL RESOLUTION, SAID THE ARTICLE, THE "ECE
STATES ITS FIRM INTENTION TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TOWARD THE
SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE PREPARATORY WORK SO THAT SUCH
A MEETING MIGHT BE HELD IN 1979."

3. COMMENT: IT IS EVIDENT FROM THIS REPORT THAT SOVIETS STILL CONSIDER AS ULTIMATE GOAL THE HOLDING OF ALL THREE HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS. WE FIND IT INTERESTING THAT THEY SPECIFIED ONLY EC-9 AS HOLDING UP PROGRESS AND REFRAINED FROM CITING U.S. AS A CULPRIT. WE WOULD EXPECT USSR TO CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR AGREEMENT ON HOLDING HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS (HLM'S) IN ALL THREE AREAS AND TO CONCENTRATE EFFORT ON EC-9. WE NOTE THAT IN THIS INSTANCE ARTICLE DID NOT IDENTIFY THE PROPOSALS AS ORIGINATING WITH . BREZHNEV. THIS RETICENCE MAY STEM FROM SOVIET REALIZATION THAT WESTERN AGREEMENT ON OTHER TWO HLM'S WILL BE HARD TO OBTAIN AND A WISH NOT TO IDENTIFY THE BOSS WITH A POSSIBLY UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT. TOON

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Message Attributes

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